

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in this application. Applicant has withdrawn claims 13-20 from consideration in response to a Restriction Requirement.

Reconsideration is requested in light of the following remarks.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 20010049499 to Lui et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 1 recites a tearable hemostasis valve comprised in part by a snap-fit arrangement coupled to a distal end of the valve body, wherein the snap-fit arrangement is adapted to couple onto an annular hub of a tubular medical device. (Underlining added for emphasis only). Applicant respectfully submits that Lui et al. do not disclose or suggest the recited claim elements.

The examiner alleges that FIG. 34 of Liu et al. includes a snap fit arrangement coupled to a distal end of the valve body as recited in claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The embodiment of FIG. 34 of Liu et al. actually discloses a hemostatic valve having a distal lip to help couple the valve within a passageway of a sheath. (Liu et al., paragraph [0058]). Thus the valve body of Liu et al. has a lip on the distal section for insertion in a passageway of a sheath.

Liu et al. do not however, disclose or suggest snap-fit arrangement coupled to a distal end of the valve body, wherein the snap-fit arrangement is adapted to couple onto an annular hub of a tubular medical device as recited in claim 1 of the present application.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is novel and unobvious over Lui et al. and is therefore allowable. Applicant further submits that claims 2-12 that depend from claim 1 is allowable as is claim 1 and for additional limitations recited therein.

PATENT

In light of the above claim amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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